

What's the Difference Between Numerical

Data

Data can be classified into two different types.

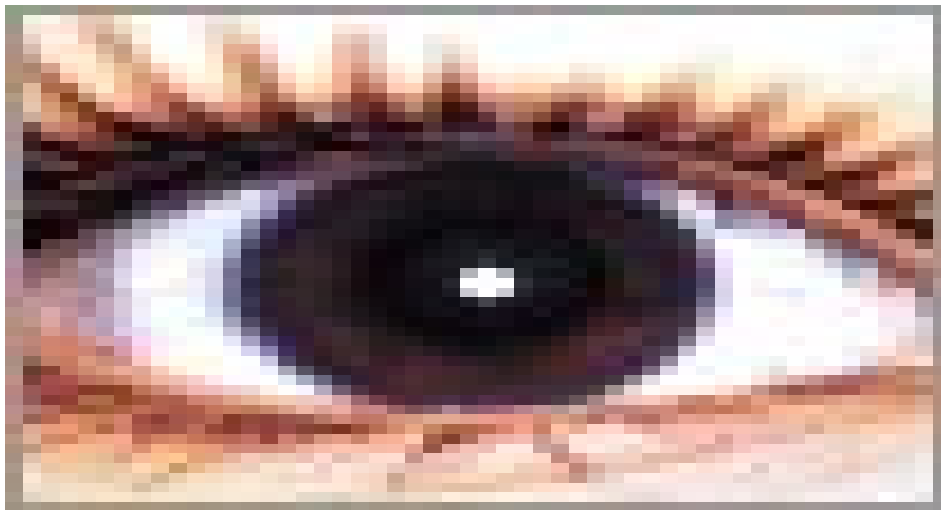
Numerical

Values or observations that can be measured. And these numbers can be placed in ascending or descending order. Examples: Height, Age, Weight, etc.

Scatter plots and line graphs are used to graph numerical data.

Bar charts and pie graphs are used to graph categorical data.

and Categorical data?



Task:

- Sort the following CensusAtSchool question topics according to whether they will yield categorical or numerical data.

Amount of money earned last week	Language mostly spoken at home
Arm span	Foot length
Birthdate	Opinions on environmental conservation
Concentration exercise (seconds)	School post code
Dominant hand reaction time	State/Territory live in
Favourite sport	Travel method to school
Height	Travel time to school
Hours slept per night	Year level

Categorical

1. Birthdate
2. Favourite sport
3. Language mostly spoken at home
4. Opinions on environmental conservation

Numerical

1. Amount of money earned last week
2. Arm span
3. Concentration exercise (seconds)
4. Dominant hand reaction time
5. Height



5. School post code 6. State/Territory live in 7. Travel method to school 8. Year level	6. Hours slept per night 7. Foot length 8. Travel time to school
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2. Why is data, that contains numbers, such as post codes and birthdates, considered categorical?

A quick and easy way to decide whether data is numerical or categorical is to ask yourself "Can I calculate an average of these numbers?. If you can calculate an average, the data is numerical, if you cannot, the data is categorical. Since an average postcode or average year level has no meaning, this data is categorical, even though the data is presented as numerals.